

Nashville Area Dental Support Center
Mini Award Program Outcomes

Background

In FY07 the Nashville Area Dental Support Center (DSC) began offering mini-awards to support oral health promotion/disease prevention (HP/DP) activities. All Nashville Area Tribes (both direct dental care and contract health services only) were given the opportunity to develop an oral HP/DP program to be supported through mini-award funds. Program requirements are:

- The application must be for oral health promotion/disease prevention (primary or secondary prevention)
- The application must be in the Problem, Objective, Activities, Resource Evaluation (POARE) format
- Activities must be evidence based
- A final report is required

In the first year of the program the maximum award was \$1,000. In year 2 of the program, that amount was increased to \$2,000.

This is a non-competitive award. Tribes work with the DSC director to develop the application. The Director works with the dental or administrative staff to develop each element in the POARE format. Activities must be evidence based; activities designed to meet GPRA indicators are encouraged. When the application is in an acceptable POARE format funding is awarded. The application is then sent to 2-3 reviewers. The purpose of the review is to provide feedback to the applicant for program improvement. Reviewer comments are sent to the applicant along with the award announcement.

Outcomes

In the first year of the program 6 Tribes received \$1,000 awards. Each funded program submitted a final report of the project. In year 2, 10 projects were funded. The following is a summary of new HP/DP programs funded through the mini-award program in the last 2 years.

Program Focus	Number of Awards
Increased Access to Care + Topical fluoride applications	4
Increased access to care + sealants	2
Increased access to care	1
Increased topical fluoride treatments	3
Access to Care + Patient Education	1
Topical fluoride + Teacher education	1
Local oral health assessment	1
Mouthguards	1
Space Maintainers	1
High Risk Perio	1

A review of the programs listed above clearly shows an emphasis on GRPA objectives or other evidence based interventions. An added benefit is that many dental programs that previously had no written policy for fluorides, sealants or other HP/DP measures have developed a more formal approach to these preventive procedures. The program has been highly praised by both Tribal administrators and dental staffs.

This year the Nashville Area has exceeded the GPRA objective for access and topical fluorides. The sealant objective has not yet been met but is very close. Many factors contribute to achieving the GPRA measures but the emphasis on GPRA activities in the mini-awards is a positive step in HP/DP program development.